

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 has been amended as follows:

The present invention provides an improved apparatus and method for transferring a discrete part having a varying thickness to a substrate web. In one aspect of the invention, a transfer assembly having a carrier member is provided. The carrier member includes a carrier body having a discrete part engaging outer surface. The outer surface has a generally ~~concave~~ convex top portion and a generally ~~concave~~ convex recessed portion spaced inwardly from the top surface. The top portion is adapted and configured to engage a first portion of a discrete part having a first thickness. The recessed portion is adapted and configured to engage at least one portion of the discrete part having at least one thickness greater the first thickness.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 5A illustrates one embodiment of the transfer assembly 12, and more specifically, of the carrier member 20, according to an aspect of the present invention. The carrier member 20 is preferably formed from an elongated, unitary carrier body 44. The carrier body 44 includes an outer surface 46 which is adapted to engage the discrete parts 26 and an opposite, inner surface (not shown) for engaging the carrier base 18 (FIG. 1). The outer surface 46 of the carrier body 44 includes a top surface 48 and a recessed portion 50. The recessed surface 50 is spaced inwardly from the top surface 48 and is connected with the top surface 48 by a connecting wall 52 which defines a height difference H between the recessed portion 50 and the top surface 48. In the embodiment shown, the height difference H is constant along the entire connecting wall 52, however, in alternate embodiments, the height difference H may vary along the connecting wall 52. Furthermore, although the wall 52 is shown as

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extending substantially normal to the outer surface 48, in alternate embodiments, the wall 52 could be angled, or tapered relative to the outer surface 48. Either or both of the top surface 48 and the recessed portion 50 are preferably curved, and more preferably, both the top surface 48 and the recessed portion 50 have a ~~concave~~ convex profile in the width direction.

The paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8 has been amended as follows:

In the preferred embodiment of the transfer assembly 12 shown in FIGS. 1 and 5A, the outer surface 46 of the carrier member 20 is curved with a ~~concave~~ convex profile. Because the web conveyor 14 shown in this embodiment is a rotary drum, the ~~concave~~ convex shape of the outer surface 46 cooperates with the web conveyor 14 to provide a smooth and accurate transition of the discrete part 26 as it passes from the carrier member 20 to the web conveyor 14.